

Message Text

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47

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

OMB-01 /066 W

----- 002331

R 021154Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3708

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 7971

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, KIN

SUBJ: UPCOMING RTG RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA

REF: BANGKOK 7792

1. ROK EMBASSY COUNSELOR HAN JAE KIM TOLD US MAY 2 THAT THE ROK SPECIAL ENVOY AND THE ROK AMBASSADOR IN THAILAND MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN MAY 1. KIM SAID THAT CHATCHAI GAVE THEM AMBIGUOUS ENCOURAGEMENT ABOUT THE ENVOY'S REQUEST TO DELAY RTG RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA. CHATCHAI TOLD THE PARTY, HOWEVER, THAT GIVEN STUDENT AND LABOR PRESSURE IN THAILAND, THE RTG HAD NO POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE TO ANNOUNCING ITS INTENTIONS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES.

2. WE TOLD KIM ABOUT THE CHARGE'S APRIL 30 DISCUSSION OF THIS TOPIC WITH CHATCHAI (REFTEL), WHO LATER IN THE DAY TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE RTG INTENDED TO RECOGNIZE NORTH KOREA NEXT WEEK. CHATCHAI REPEATED THIS INTENTION TO A VISITING U.S. WAR COLLEGE GROUP MAY 2.

3. KIM FIGURES THE CAUSE IS LOST. HE SAID A NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN BANGKOK MAY 7.

4. ON LATE AFTERNOON OF MAY 2 MEMBER OF ROK SPECIAL DELEGATION
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CALLED ON CHARGE' TO COMPARE NOTES. HE BELIEVES

CHATCHAI AND RTG WILL GO AHEAD WITH RECOGNITION NEXT WEEK
AS A CHEAP SHOT TO SHOW THAI PUBLIC THAT NEW RTG IS EX-
PANDING INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS WHILE THEY SORT OUT DIFFICULTIES
THEY ARE FACING IN RECOGNIZING PRC AND GETTING DIALOGUE GOING
WITH HANOI. KOREAN SOURCE SAID CHATCHAI STRESSED TWO POINTS
TO SPECIAL EMISSARY: THAILAND IS A SMALL NATION AND MUST
MAKE PEACE WITH ITS NEIGHBORS (FACT THAT NORTH KOREA IS NOT
EXACTLY A NEIGHBOR IS IRRELEVANT TO CHATCHAI) AND THAILAND
HAS LOST FAITH IN U.S. COMMITMENT AND ROLE IN AREA. KOREAN
SPECIAL EMISSARY WILL SEE PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT TOMORROW
AND LEAVE IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER FOR SEOUL. THEY DO NOT
EXPECT CALL ON PRIMIN TO CHANGE SITUATION.
MASTERS

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